

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-28, 30-31, and 33-36 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 6, 12, 19, and 32 being canceled, and Claims 1, 7, 13, 16, 19-27, 30, and 33-36 being amended. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the opportunity to telephonically interview the present application on September 10, 2003, and again on October 8, 2003. Applicants have prepared this response in accordance with the understandings reached during the interviews.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Toriumi (U.S. Patent No. 6,062,868). This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

As discussed in the previous communications, the present invention is directed an apparatus and method for converting and delivering musical content information between a client terminal and a server that is connected to the client terminal over a communication network, including networks such as the Internet, LAN, WAN, Ethernet, etc. In one aspect of the invention, the content information of a music piece, such as MIDI data, is received by the server from the client terminal and then converted delivered back to the client terminal. The server converts the received content information by imparting additional value to the content information.

In one example, the client terminal may send to the server content information of a right-hand performance of a music piece. The server then converts the received content information by imparting additional content information to the received content information, such as adding the left-hand performance of the same music piece. The server then delivers back to the client terminal the two-hand performance of the music piece.

In another aspect of the present invention, the server terminal creates and re-transmits musical information on the basis of the parameter information transmitted from the client terminal.

Toriumi, on the other hand, is directed to a karaoke transmitting system that reads out music data and background video data from a server in response to a simple request signal received from terminal 40. Toriumi also discloses creating karaoke data on the basis of the read-out music data and background video data.

However, as discussed during the telephonic interviews, Toriumi simply does not contain any disclosure of sending content information from a client terminal to a server, as recited in the amended claims.

Furthermore, Toriumi does not teach or suggest converting information received from a client terminal into other information by imparting an additional value to the received information.

Finally, Toriumi does not teach or suggest creating and transmitting musical information on the basis of parameters provided by a client terminal (as recited in the amended Claims 27-36). Rather, Toriumi simply shows a music piece or the like produced by new melody producing section 1, but not on the basis of any parameters received. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-36 are not anticipated by, nor obvious in view of, Toriumi.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any

required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 393032025300. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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